

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany
SUBJECT Struggle for Power

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ALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. The struggle for power in the East German Communist leadership is in full swing, with Walter Ulbricht attempting to obtain dictatorial powers. Ulbricht is preparing an alteration of the constitution which will abolish the office of president, now held by Pieck, with the expiration of his term in October 1953.
2. The office of premier (now Grotewohl) will be combined with that of General secretary of the German Socialist Unity Party (SED) (now Ulbricht). This would mean the removal of Grotewohl.
3. Grotewohl is organizing an opposition, with the objective of electing Pieck president for life through a "spontaneous people's demonstration".
4. There is at present little likelihood that Ulbricht will succeed in abolishing the presidency, but he is launching a personal attack on all members of the SED who are not Communists of long standing.

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